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press release

Machine tool orders grew 27% during May, due principally to a surge in orders for metal-forming type machine tools and helped by modest growth in orders for metal-cutting type machines. During May the American machine tool industry booked $320,150,000 worth of orders. This total is 137% above the order rate during May 1983 and it is the largest monthly order total since Spring 1981.

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However, May's order rate is only 63% of the average monthly order rate during the first quarter of 1980, which was the beginning of the recession for the American machine tool industry, according to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association that compiles these data.

national machine tool builders association

During May, machine tool shipments rose 30% from their April level to a total value of $205,700,000 -- making May the first

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$200,000,000 shipment month since 1982. Compared to May 1983, shipments were up 51% for the month. During May, shipments of metal-cutting type machine tools totaled $147,300,000, which is an increase of 49% from the same month last year; while metal-forming machine shipments were up 58%, to $58,400,000, from last year.

According to James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association, "Most of the increase in machine tool orders during May originated in the metal-forming segment of the industry, where orders were up 207% from May last year. The metal forming segment of the industry, because of its relatively smaller size, is subject to much broader fluctuations in order rates."

Metal-forming machine tool orders totaled $128,100,000 -- up nearly $55 million (75%) during May. Metal-cutting machine tool orders totaled $192,050,000, a 7% increase from April levels.

"Considering that the American machine tool industry entered the recession during the second quarter of 1980, it is gratifying to see substantial increases in both orders and shipments." Gray added. "However, the industry still has a long way to go to even approach its pre-recession strength. In the face of growing imports -- which supply more than 50% of some important machine tool types and more

than one-third of the total market -- the industry may never recover."

"That is why it is so important for President Reagan to promptly take action on the Secretary of Commerce's February recommendations for machine tool import relief to protect the security of the United States. As the President delays, more and more domestic machine tool capacity withers and disappears." Gray asserted.

At the end of May, the backlog of machine tools under construction was $1,404,450,000. This is an increase of 9% during the month.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

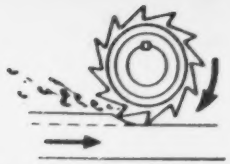
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
May 1984	170,400	21,650	192,050	121,850	6,250	128,100	292,250	27,900	320,150
April 1984	135,700	44,100	179,800	65,900	7,400	73,300	201,600	51,500	253,100
% Change									
May 1984:April 1984	+25.6	-50.9	+6.8	+84.9	-15.5	+74.8	+45.0	-45.8	+26.5
May 1983	88,200	5,400	93,600	37,900	3,800	41,700	126,100	9,200	135,300
% Change									
May 1984:May 1983	+93.2	+300.9	+105.2	+221.5	+64.5	+207.2	+131.8	+203.3	+136.6
Year To Date 1984	682,200	102,400	784,600	363,550	25,550	389,100	1,045,750	127,950	1,173,700
Year To Date 1983	367,700	29,250	396,950	155,000	16,750	171,750	522,700	46,000	568,700
% Change									
1984 : 1983	+85.5	+250.1	+97.7	+134.5	+52.5	+126.6	+100.1	+178.2	+106.4

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
May 1984	139,550	7,750	147,300	51,200	7,200	58,400	190,750	14,950	205,700
April 1984	92,700	8,800	101,500	52,300	4,950	57,250	145,000	13,750	158,750
% Change									
May 1984:April 1984	+50.5	-11.9	+45.1	-2.1	+45.5	+2.0	+31.6	+8.7	+29.6
May 1983	88,600	10,200	98,800	35,050	2,000	37,050	123,650	12,200	135,850
% Change									
May 1984:May 1983	+57.5	-24.0	+49.1	+46.1	+260.0	+57.6	+54.3	+22.5	+51.4
Year To Date 1984	505,250	41,650	546,900	239,450	27,600	267,050	744,700	69,250	813,950
Year To Date 1983	518,950	63,400	582,350	171,050	20,700	191,750	690,000	84,100	774,100
% Change									
1984 : 1983	-2.6	-34.3	-6.1	+40.0	+33.3	+39.3	+7.9	-17.7	+5.1

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

Form No. PRCC-2



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

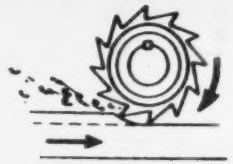
DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 175,550,000	$ 13,550,000	$ 189,100,000	1,120.85	$ 100,900,000	$ 12,050,000	$ 112,950,000
Feb.	$ 187,700,000	$ 15,200,000	$ 202,900,000	1,176.45	$ 135,700,000	$ 11,600,000	$ 147,300,000
Mar.	$ 188,650,000	$ 19,800,000	$ 208,450,000	1,195.65	$ 172,350,000	$ 16,900,000	$ 189,250,000
Apr.	$ 201,600,000	$ 51,500,000	$ 253,100,000	1,290.00	$ 145,000,000	$ 13,750,000	$ 158,750,000
May (p)	$ 292,250,000	$ 27,900,000	$ 320,150,000	1,404.45	$ 190,750,000	$ 14,950,000	$ 205,700,000
5 Mos.	$1,045,750,000	$ 127,950,000	$1,173,700,000		$ 744,700,000	$ 69,250,000	$ 813,950,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 183,900,000	$ 14,300,000	$ 198,200,000	$ 8,350,000	$ 750,000	$ 9,100,000
Feb.	$ 197,050,000	$ 16,900,000	$ 213,950,000	$ 9,350,000	$ 1,700,000	$ 11,050,000
Mar.	$ 196,700,000	$ 21,200,000	$ 217,900,000	$ 8,050,000	$ 1,400,000	$ 9,450,000
Apr.	$ 209,800,000	$ 52,050,000	$ 261,850,000	$ 8,200,000	$ 550,000	$ 8,750,000
May (p)	$ 304,050,000	$ 28,100,000	$ 332,150,000	$ 11,800,000	$ 200,000	$ 12,000,000
5 Mos.	$1,091,500,000	$ 132,550,000	$1,224,050,000	$ 45,750,000	$ 4,600,000	$ 50,350,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 122,500,000	$ 10,700,000	$ 133,200,000	883.80	$ 65,350,000	$ 7,200,000	$ 72,550,000
Feb.	$ 121,700,000	$ 11,350,000	$ 133,050,000	913.80	$ 95,300,000	$ 7,750,000	$ 103,050,000
Mar.	$ 131,900,000	$ 14,600,000	$ 146,500,000	937.80	$ 112,350,000	$ 10,150,000	$ 122,500,000
Apr.	$ 135,700,000	$ 44,100,000	$ 179,800,000	1,016.10	$ 92,700,000	$ 8,800,000	$ 101,500,000
May (p)	$ 170,400,000	$ 21,650,000	$ 192,050,000	1,060.85	$ 139,550,000	$ 7,750,000	$ 147,300,000
5 Mos.	$ 682,200,000	$ 102,400,000	$ 784,600,000		$ 505,250,000	$ 41,650,000	$ 546,900,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 127,550,000	$ 10,750,000	$ 138,300,000	$ 5,050,000	$ 50,000	$ 5,100,000
Feb.	$ 130,600,000	$ 12,400,000	$ 143,000,000	$ 8,900,000	$ 1,050,000	$ 9,950,000
Mar.	$ 137,150,000	$ 15,950,000	$ 153,100,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 1,350,000	$ 6,600,000
Apr.	$ 141,800,000	$ 44,200,000	$ 186,000,000	$ 6,100,000	$ 100,000	$ 6,200,000
May (p)	$ 174,300,000	$ 21,800,000	$ 196,100,000	$ 3,900,000	$ 150,000	$ 4,050,000
5 Mos.	$ 711,400,000	$ 105,100,000	$ 816,500,000	$ 29,200,000	$ 2,700,000	$ 31,900,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan.	$ 53,050,000	$ 2,850,000	$ 55,900,000	237.05	$ 35,550,000	$ 4,850,000	$ 40,400,000
Feb.	$ 66,000,000	$ 3,850,000	$ 69,850,000	262.65	$ 40,400,000	$ 3,850,000	$ 44,250,000
Mar.	$ 56,750,000	$ 5,200,000	$ 61,950,000	257.85	$ 60,000,000	$ 6,750,000	$ 66,750,000
Apr.	$ 65,900,000	$ 7,400,000	$ 73,300,000	273.90	$ 52,300,000	$ 4,950,000	$ 57,250,000
May (p)	$ 121,850,000	$ 6,250,000	$ 128,100,000	343.60	$ 51,200,000	$ 7,200,000	$ 58,400,000
5 Mos.	$ 363,550,000	$ 25,550,000	$ 389,100,000		$ 239,450,000	$ 27,600,000	$ 267,050,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan.	$ 56,350,000	$ 3,550,000	$ 59,900,000	$ 3,300,000	$ 700,000	$ 4,000,000
Feb.	$ 66,450,000	$ 4,500,000	$ 70,950,000	$ 450,000	$ 650,000	$ 1,100,000
Mar.	$ 59,550,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 64,800,000	$ 2,800,000	$ 50,000	$ 2,850,000
Apr.	$ 68,000,000	$ 7,850,000	$ 75,850,000	$ 2,100,000	$ 450,000	$ 2,550,000
May (p)	$ 129,750,000	$ 6,300,000	$ 136,050,000	$ 7,900,000	$ 50,000	$ 7,950,000
5 Mos.	$ 380,100,000	$ 27,450,000	$ 407,550,000	$ 16,550,000	$ 1,900,000	$ 18,450,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1d

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